

I am writing out of concern about the Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary just a few days before the election.

First of all, as a viewer, I realize I am entitled to not watch programming I am not interested in. I do, however, take note when I am watching what is supposed to be a public source of information that turns out to be unsubstantiated propaganda, with a clear intent of defaming a public official and candidate for the U.S. Presidency right before an election. This irresponsible media for many reasons, one being it does not offer an equal rebuttal program to dismiss the accusations and misrepresentations, nor does it offer enough time for such a rebuttal to be programmed and shown. We don't even get proper debates anymore, so why should we have one sided debates shown? Why not relegate this propaganda to the movies, much like Fahrenheit 9/11? Simple answer is the Sinclair media monster wants to influence the outcome of the election 2004 for presidency, whether it does so using shameful tactics or not.

I feel this is a free advertisement of slander, and that it does not allow a clear rebuttal period for the person it degrades, besides any Veteran who has ever received a medal of honor. It is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation, and the endless manipulation of the press on our free elections.

I have heard complaints on conservative talk radio about Fahrenheit 9/11. This was shown in theaters, where people have to pay to see a movie...not on a free domain media station I have access to in my own home, assuming I own a TV. There is a significant difference between the two forms of media in terms of public interest and public airwaves. Had this movie been put in theatres before the election, I doubt many people would be complaining...the fact that it is using public airwaves is unspeakable.

Being that Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, it should be required, as dictated by law, that the its programming serve the public interest. As is becoming very clear, however, large media groups that are controlling far more of the public airwaves, which means we get more of what's good for their bottom line and less of what our society needs to ensure fair and balanced options for our democracy. This, regardless of one's political opinions. I am offended for all Veterans and free thinkers as well as those who might be less well-informed as to what this propaganda machine is really up to.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. It shows why local, smaller companies that are dropping like flies to the big conglomerate media corporations are a missed asset in our democracy. If you want to see

propanda programming, see the movie 'Triumph of the will' by Leni Riefenstahl. It should scare the viewing public into action against media manipulation of our political process. Thank you.